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Letter dated 8 January 2013 from the Permanent Representatives of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Missions of the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations present their compliments to the United Nations Secretary-General and have the honour to inform him that Iranian military launches have repeatedly violated and encroached upon the waters of the submerged area that is adjacent to the divided submerged area over which only Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have exclusive sovereign rights. In the most recent of those encroachments, which took place on at 1710 hours on Wednesday, 8 Dhu'lhijjah A.H. 1433 (24 October A.D. 2012) three armed Iranian vessels approached the AD-30 drilling rig in the Durrah field and stopped alongside the handling vessel *Shark 30*. Such actions could lead to confrontations that could threaten security and peace in the region.

It is well known that only Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have exclusive sovereign rights to explore and exploit hydrocarbon resources in the Durrah field and the divided submerged area.

With a view to protecting their interests, ensuring respect for their rights in the region and upholding regional stability and security, the Governments of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have repeatedly protested about and expressed their strong displeasure with regard to these continual violations and encroachments and demanded that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran should cease such acts.

The Governments of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have requested the Government of Iran to inaugurate negotiations between, on the one hand, the Governments of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and, on the other hand, the Government of Iran, in order to delimit, in accordance with the provisions of international law, the maritime borders that separate the waters of the divided submerged area from Iranian territorial waters. However, the Governments of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have received no response from the Government of Iran to their repeated calls for negotiations.

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The Permanent Missions of the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations would be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 75 (a), Oceans and the law of the sea.

(*Signed*) Mansour Ayyad **Alotaibi**
Permanent Representative of Kuwait
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Abdallah Yahya A. **Al-Mouallimi**
Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia
to the United Nations